GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2289
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
GAS AND OIL RESERVES IN HIMALAYAS
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the exploration of gas and oil reserves in Himalayas on the basis of reports of geo-scientific survey etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by when success is likely to be achieved?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b) Government have awarded one exploration block, namely HF-ONN-2001/1 in Himalayan Foothill area in the State of Himachal Pradesh, to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) under the third round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) for which Production Sharing Contract has been signed on 4.2.2003. In addition, ONGC is holding two Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) one each in the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, on nomination basisOil India Ltd. (OIL) is also holding one PEL in Kashipur block, on nomination basis in the Himalayan Foothill area in the States of Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh.

During the X Plan period (2002-07), the total expenditure envisaged on exploration by ONGC and OIL is Rs. 77.30 crores and Rs. 53.20 crores, respectively, and there is no fund constraints for taking up any additional work programme which may arise during the above period.

The National Oil Companies (NOCs), namely ONGC and OIL are vigorously pursuing exploration activities to get a break-through in Himalayan areas, although no commercial success has been achieved so far. Since exploration is input deterministic and output probabilistic in nature, no time frame can be laid down for the same.